(d) As per a quick estimate, the additional cost of giving Ad-hoc and temporary Incentive to the Islanders would be approximately Rs. 30 lakhs per annum.

Increase in Government borrowings

*188. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed concern over the expected increase in Government borrowings during the second half of the year;

(b) whether, according to a RBI report, net Government borrowings stood at Rs. 23,250 crores and the gross borrowings at Rs. 75,050 crores forming 29 per cent and 49 per cent of the budgeted amount, respectively; and

(c) whether the RBI has cautioned Government not to cross the fiscal deficit target?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India, in its Mid-term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2004-2005 has, *inter-alia,* stated that in view of strong credit demand, the market borrowing programme of the Government in the second half of the year needs to be calibrated carefully.

(b) Yes, Sir, in so far as Government borrowings upto October 21,2004 are concerned.

(c) The Mid-term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2004-2005 has, *inter-alia,* reiterated the Government's policy that it is important to ensure that there is no slippage in fiscal deficit.

Direct Air service between Bhubaneswar and Delhi

*191. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has made **a** request for introduction of flight between Bhubaneshwar and Delhi *via* Varanasi to help the Buddhist tourists to visit Buddhist spots in Orissa;

(b) if so, what is the status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the proposal of the State Government would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines was operating a daily service between Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar with A320 aircraft till August, 1996. However, the Average carriage between Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar was only around 10-12 passengers per flight, which was not sufficient to support economically viable operations. Therefore, the route was restructured to provide non-stop operations between Delhi and Bhubaneshwar, in order to provide a better product to passengers on the Delhi-Bhubaneshwar route. The current traffic potential between Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar is still not adequate to ensure viable operations of the flight.

Allotment of petrol and diesel outlets

†*192. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol and diesel outlets allotted in the country from 1st April, 2003 to 30th September, 2004;

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted in each State and Union Territory; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any new policy regarding allotment of petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) During the period 1.4.2003 to 30.9.2004, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have allotted 5,980 retail outlets (petrol/diesel pumps) throughout the country. State/Union Territory-wise details are given in Statement-I *(See* below). In addition, 404 petrol pumps have been set up by the private oil marketing companies, details of which are given in Statement-ll. (See below)

(c) No, Sir. Within Government's broad policy framework, OMGs have laid down their respective guidelines for the selection of dealers for retail outlets and the allotment of dealerships to selected candidates.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.